

## A glimpse of Bhutan 6 days



Experience the mysterious destination of Bhutan, the land of the Thunder Dragon. In this tour, you will have the chance to see the highlights of the country including the 108 stupas at the top of Dochu-La, the beautiful Dzong at Punakha and a hike to the famous "Tiger's Lair" monastery.

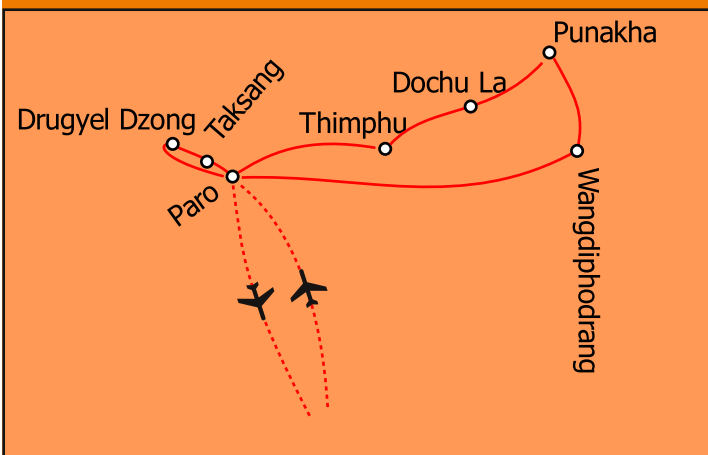
### Overview of Tour:

- Hotels: 5 nights
- Breakfast: 5, Lunch: 5, Dinner: 5
- Hotel Rating: 3 star
- Guide

#### Day 1: Arrive Paro

The flight to Paro offers breathtaking view of the mighty Himalayas. On the arrival at Paro International Airport, complete your visa formalities and you will be received by your representative, who will accompany you for the tour. We will drive to visit Ta Dzong, built in 17th century as a watch tower for Paro Dzong. This Dzong was later converted into the National Museum in 1967, and is filled with antique Thangka paintings, textiles, weapons and armour. Also visit the Rinpung Dzong, built in 17th century to defend valley against Tibetan invaders. It is now used as an administrative centre and home of monastic community. After completion, we pay a visit to the Holy and sacred Kyichu Lhakhang, which is the oldest monastery in the Kingdom of Bhutan.

### Tour Map:



After lunch, we proceed to Thimphu. The drive to Thimphu is very scenic as we follow the river valley to the capital city. One will witness the change in vegetation as Thimphu and Paro is a complete alpine Zone. Before entering into the capital city, we visit the Simtokha Dzong, the oldest fortress in Bhutan. It was built by Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyal, the founder of Bhutan in the year 1629 AD. Sightseeing in Thimphu Vegetable Market day.



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### Day 2: Thimphu Sightseeing

AM drive to the mini zoo to see the most endangered national animal of Bhutan Takin. Drive to BBS Tower at Sangaygang to do a short hike to Wangditse Goemba, which was founded in the 18th century by the eighth Desi (secular ruler). The hike will start from the BBS tower till Dechenphodrang, through the pine forest. On this trail you can also see and enjoy a beautiful Thimphu city view. The hike will take about 1 hour 30 minutes. We then visit the Buddhist Nunnery.



After lunch, we visit the Memorial Chorten, a stupa built in memory of the Late Third King of Bhutan. Drive to Buddha's point and see the Biggest Buddha statue. The area is still under construction. In the evening, visit Tashichhodzong, beautiful medieval fortress built in 1641 by Zhabdrung Nawang Namgyal. The evening will be free. Overnight in Thimphu

### Day 3: Thimphu – Punakha

After breakfast and before proceeding to Punakha, we will visit the Post office to see the world famous and the award winning stamps of Bhutan. We then drive to Punakha, crossing Dochula, a high altitude pass at an altitude of 3,100 m. Constructed on top of a hill are 108 beautiful monumental chortens built by Her Majesty Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck. On a clear day, one can enjoy one of the most spectacular views of the highest peaks in Bhutan.



A low lying sub-tropical valley, Punakha served as the capital of Bhutan until 1955 and still it is home of Chief Abbot in winter months. Visit the Punakha Dzong, built in 1637 by Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyal. This Dzong has played prominent role in civil and religious life of the Kingdom. Destroyed four times by fire and an earthquake in 1897, the Dzong has been now fully restored in its original splendour.

### Day 4: Wangdi-Paro

We drive to Wangdiphodrang: This town is located to South of Punakha and is the last town before central Bhutan. The district is famous of its fine bamboo work and its slate and stone carving. On 24th June 2012, the Dzong was engulfed by fire and razed to ashes. Unfortunately, we will be able to see the ruins only. It is sad for us Bhutanese to see the Dzong burning and the people helpless. The Royal Government is now working out to reconstruct the Wangdi Dzong and bring to its original splendour. Drive to Paro. Stroll around the town. Overnight in Paro.

### Day 5: Paro



AM drive to the trail route of the famous Taktshang Lhakhang "The Tigers Lair". Clinging to a black rock face, 900 meters above the valley floor, nestles Taktshang Lhakhang, one of the holiest and the most beautiful site of Bhutan. Taktshang, the tiger's lair, acquires its name from the legend of its foundation, when in the 8th Century Guru Rinpoche, widely revered as the second Buddha, arrived from Tibet flying across the mountains on the back of a tigress. He meditated at the site for three months, from where he used the religious cycle of the Kagye to subjugate the Eight Categories of Evil Spirits, and thus converted the region to Buddhism. Lunch will be served at the Cafeteria.

After lunch, we visit the Drugyel Dzong, a ruined Fort, which once defended this valley from the Tibetan invasion. This fortress, now a burned shell, was once strategic in Bhutan's defence against the Tibetan invasion Overnight in Paro.

### Day 6: Departure

Drive to Paro international Airport for onward journey. See off by our representative



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### Tour Pricing:

The tour pricing is fixed by the Royal Government of Bhutan and tour operators are not permitted to charge less than the amounts specified.

#### Price During Low Season

(January, February, June, July, August, November, December)

\$1020US per person (includes \$20US visa fee)

#### Price During High Season

(March, April, May, September, October)

\$1270US per person (includes \$20US visa fee)

#### Surcharges

For single travellers there is a surcharge of \$200US and for travellers in groups of two there is a surcharge of \$150US per person.

#### Discounts

Discounts are available for children and students.

#### What is Included?

- All Hotels
- All Meals (excluding drinks)
- Local Transportation
- All Entrance Fees to Museums

#### What is Not Included?

- International Flights
- Drinks
- Tips
- Laundry
- Other Personal Expenses

### Payment Information:

Visas are only approved upon receipt of full payment.

We are currently unable to accept credit cards as a form of payment.

Payment must be sent via Wire Transfer (TT) in USD; your bank will be able to assist with this type of transfer. The tour payment will be placed into a special tourism account until the tour is completed.

Once you have transmitted the payment, there be a small 2 or 3 day delay for the funds to reach us. Once the payment is received then we will apply for the visa which is generally completed in less than one week.

### International Flights:



The only airline serving Bhutan is Drukair with connection points in Delhi, Bangkok, Kathmandu, Mumbai, and Singapore.

Weather problems can cause significant delays and in flights into and out of Bhutan. It is suggested to purchase a flexible ticket for your onward ticket or leave some additional time.

